

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 25

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 23 April 1970

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Sergeant *Arnold C. Roark*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by extraordinary gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Division in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. On 16 May 1968, Sergeant *Roark* was the point squad leader of a small force which had the mission of rescuing eleven men in a hilltop observation post under heavy attack by a company-size force, approximately 1,000 meters from the battalion perimeter. As lead elements of the relief force reached the besieged observation post, intense automatic weapons fire from enemy-occupied bunkers halted their movement. Without hesitation, Sergeant *Roark* maneuvered his squad, repeatedly exposing himself to the withering enemy fire to hurl grenades and direct the fire of his squad to gain fire superiority and cover the withdrawal of the outpost and evacuation of its casualties. Frustrated in their effort to overrun the position, the enemy swept the hilltop with small arms and volleys of grenades. Seeing a grenade land in the midst of his men, Sergeant *Roark*, with complete disregard for his own safety, hurled himself upon the grenade, absorbing its blast with his body. Sergeant *Roark's* magnificent leadership and dauntless courage saved the lives of many of his comrades and were the inspiration for the successful relief of the outpost. His actions which culminated in the supreme sacrifice of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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